

Craig,

Will you please share with the commissioners this string of emails from the listserv for my neighborhood, Southwood. Joan, the president of the neighborhood association spoke in favor of District 5 at the meeting on Saturday. She had also written us a letter. That same letter was sent to our listserv that resulted in some responses like these below.

The emails below are in response to the map put out by the Compact Map Coalition. The emails below are also from citizens in several of the south Austin neighborhoods.

Maria

Maria Candelaria Solis

To: SouthwoodNeighbors@yahoo.com
From: Date: Wed, 23 Oct 2013 05:48:39 -0700
Subject: Re: [SouthwoodNeighbors] Re: Frm neighbor in S Austin Combined Neighborhood: RE Newly configured District 5 map

I would like to see continued coverage of this issue on this list. I have no idea how to make a completely fair choice of district boundaries. But I too tend to look away from anywhere north of Ben White in my daily living these days.

Michael Cospers

Michael C. : "There's no logic to that."
Lora D. : "You're right, just an absolute."

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:35 PM, Joan wrote:

It has been pointed out to me that when I posted this I had not made it clear that it is a couple of emails done between several "like-minded" neighbors.

Its original intent was not to express one view for Southwood, but to express personal views between several neighbors who have been very involved in the redistricting process.

So please keep this in mind as you read the email.

Joan

--- In SouthwoodNeighbors@yahoogroups.com, Joan Owens

wrote:

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> Eliza is a Southwood Neighbor while Ken is in our South Austin Combined Neighborhood.

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> Joan

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> ----- Forwarded message -----

> From: Ken Craig

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> Good afternoon,

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> Thank you, Eliza, for including me on this e-mail so that I could receive the map and also that I might be able to send a follow up e-mail more efficiently.

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> I am not privy to the NA officers' discussions, nor do I wish to insert myself in the Southwood decision-making process. I simply address you as a concerned neighbor who has been part of the SACN Planning process from the beginning as well as a co-leader of the GAVA '45 Initiative, etc., and wish to echo and add my concerns about this "Coalition" map and emphasize certain points.

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> First, this map moves the southeast quadrant of the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Planning area into a different district-with Dove Springs, in fact. This contradicts the testimony we have been giving at the public hearings and other ICRC meetings for many weeks now.

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> It also attaches most of the SACN area to a district that will be based and weighted in the major precincts in 78704, which contradicts the stated wishes of most (not all, I understand) residents of our community that we have more of a community affinity with other neighborhoods south of Ben White than those north (I write this fully understanding that only SANA has an official position supporting this point).

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> I am further concerned that, in addition to either ignoring or being unaware of the expressed wishes of this community, the coalition neighborhoods, as best I can tell, included no neighborhoods south of Ben White, nor, as far as I can tell, were any invited to participate. I believe that is significant.

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> At any rate, I wholeheartedly agree with Joan, Eliza, and others that our community's

progress and future accomplishments may be slowed or somewhat sidetracked. Also, to the south in the ICRC 5 we have found allies with common interests and goals that we probably didn't know we had. I also agree with them that we need allies. I like Mario Cantu's offer of support and hope there is agreement to take him up on that offer. I also believe we may find allies to the east and I would be happy to reach out to them.

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> Finally, I communicated with Francis Reilly about the 9:00 a.m. SACN meeting this Saturday, and he notes that it will be over by 11:00. As the ICRC meeting at the Southeast Branch library will begin at 10:30 we should be able to make it to both (Craig Tounget estimates public testimony will continue until 1:00). I will encourage Woodhue folks to show up, and for those who can't, send an e-mail to the ICRC).

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> I apologize to those of you who may be put off by the length and intrusion of this e-mail. I merely hope to continue the discussion and hope to assist in any way I can to continuing our community building through the cohesiveness of our neighborhoods.

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> Kind regards,

> Ken Craig

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> On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 3:47 PM, Eliza May wrote:

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>>All,

>>I am attaching the map introduced to the commission yesterday by the new coalition on compact districts.

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>>I know that you are as concerned as I am about how this coalition, led by central Austin activist, will affect the

>>ICRC's district 5 which we are happy with.

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>>Make no mistake, the district 5 we like (ICRC's) can change to the detriment of what has been accomplished by our neighborhood planning.

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>>I care about our neighborhood and what we can accomplish in the years ahead for our area. If there is something that you think we can do as a group, I am willing to do my share.

>>Eliza May

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